

people are fed up. They want big government out of their lives.

Extensive bureaucratic redtape suffocates American businesses and individuals. The Regulatory Transition Act, H.R. 450, represents a crucial first step in lifting the regulatory burden. This moratorium will stop the flood of new Federal regulations while we work to ensure that future regulations will benefit the American people, not smother them.

The American taxpayers, small business owners, property owners, and local governments have waited too long for Congress to take commonsense action. We must work now to lift the burden of excessive and costly Government regulation.

The Republican regulatory reform provisions of the Contract With America promote economic growth, roll back the regulatory tide, restore the rights of property owners, and make Government bureaucrats accountable for the economic load they force upon American taxpayers. Out of control Federal regulation impose hidden taxes on American families. The Heritage Foundation estimates that Federal regulations cost each American household \$5,000 per year.

A temporary moratorium on new Federal regulations and real regulatory reform will help get Government off the backs of the people and their businesses. Mr. Speaker, restoring common sense to the regulatory process will enable employers to invest in their workers and the future of America, not Government bank accounts.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 22, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate my dear friend and colleague LOUIS STOKES who once again has called upon the Members of the House to come together to pay tribute to the deeds and accomplishments of African-Americans during Black History Month.

It is a great history we have to remember, one that could take us back to the first slave ship that arrived on the American shores. But even as we would rejoice over those many positive developments, from the Emancipation Proclamation to the Voting Rights Act, we must now look around us and consider that many of the gains of our recent history are now threatened by a wave of scapegoating that is sweeping the country.

How sad it is that, because of economic frustration and doubts about the future, so many Americans are now pointing fingers of blame to those who are the weakest among us. How unfortunate it is that by doing so, we are allowing many of our political leaders to destroy the safety net that has been erected to protect the poor, the sick, the children, and the aged. It is as if, in their partisan zeal, they would do away completely with the legacy of the great President Franklin Roosevelt.

The first victim in this misguided crusade is affirmative action. It is no secret that even some of our Presidential candidates have made it their target, one even saying that if

elected he will make it the first item on the national agenda.

Just this week in the House of Representatives, a vote was taken to take down the first plank of the affirmative action structure. No, it was not that well-known or popular because few minorities or women could benefit directly from it. But it was important. By providing tax incentives for the sale of radio and television stations to minorities and women this provision in the law gave those groups a chance to improve the horrendously negative images that prevail in the media.

How tiresome and insulting it has been over the years to see nothing but Amos 'n Andy, buffoons and now criminals as the stereotypes of blacks in the movies and on television. This provision was meant to give minority broadcasters a chance to reflect images that would elevate rather than denigrate their children and their families, to broadcast something different from the killers, pimps, and drug dealers that have become the latest stereotypes of black males portrayed on television.

This action by the House was the first assault on affirmative action. In California next year, it will be followed by a referendum that would outlaw any preference in the areas of employment, education, and business. That movement promises to be adopted in other States around the country, and may well be addressed by the U.S. Congress even before that.

What an outrage it is that in our great country, the home of every minority group, every race and religion, that we should now be taking steps away from having everyone represented in all our institutions. Indeed, we are all Americans, and if affirmative action is what it takes to have us all represented, then affirmative action it must be. What are we doing, after all, but making our institutions better, including the best of every group, painting the gorgeous mosaic, that makes America what it is.

The assault on affirmative action is only the tip of the iceberg in what is clearly a broad campaign of scapegoating. The focus is now on African-Americans, but it is expanding to include other minorities, the poor and immigrants. This is a campaign that began in the last election, where the principle themes were crime and welfare. These appeals were not so blatant as the infamous Willie Horton ads in the first Bush campaign, but the objective was the same.

The assault has intensified since last November, and has been broadened to include a generalized campaign against high ranking Black officials from Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders to Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Both of these officials without being charged with any crime came under the attack of right wing Republicans who found them easy targets for political attacks.

Also in the political arena, the U.S. Supreme Court has weighed in with the strong input from Justice Clarence Thomas, and is now widely expected to shatter, not only affirmative action but the very laws which have made it possible to elect thousands of Blacks and Latinos to public office, from local sheriffs to Members of Congress. The alleged constitutional offense involves the use of gerrymandering to create electoral districts that have made it easier to elect minorities to office. It is the same system that no one chal-

lenged when used to enhance the chances to elect Republicans or Democrats.

The attacks on Black Americans in some cases has reverted to the cruder forms. Hate crimes reported to the FBI almost doubled between 1991 and 1993, with Blacks accounting for 57 percent of the 1,689 victims. On the cultural front, three books were published in 1994 that renew claims that Blacks are genetically inferior.

The current challenge to affirmative action in the Congress, therefore, is only part of a broader effort to turn back the clock on Civil Rights while unraveling the entire safety net that has protected those in our society who have the least.

The current campaign to cut \$780 billion in taxes over the next 10 years while maintaining defense, Social Security, Medicare and payments on the national debt used to be called Voodoo economics. Now, in the context of the Contract With America, of balanced budget amendments, block grants and welfare reform, it is a recipe for savaging the poor, minorities, the aged, the sick and the children.

Indeed much of the Contract With America will trample on the poor, but particularly on African-Americans who disproportionately rely on these benefits. The contract targets not only teen-age mothers who are so bereft of hope that only having a child—in or out of wedlock—will provide any sense of accomplishment.

But cutting back on crime and drug prevention programs, the contract turns it back on the youths, especially young, untrained, unemployed Black males who are being left to the whims of streets, with nothing more to look forward to than more jails. The balanced budget amendment puts at risk programs in education, public transportation and other programs most needed by the poor and minorities.

During this Black History Month, we must rejoice in the accomplishments of the past, but we must remain vigilant of the challenges in the present. The threat to affirmative action, education, employment and to the social safety meant may be only the beginning.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S 15TH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, I rise, today, to acknowledge and extend my heartfelt congratulations to the human relations commission and the friends of the human relations commission of Santa Clara County on the occasion of their 15th Annual Human Relations Awards Banquet being held on February 23, 1995.

This event pays tribute to all members and friends of the commission who have given of themselves to serve others. Their dedication to the citizens of Santa Clara County has enabled hundreds of individuals to realize their full human and civil rights.